

Message Text

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SUBJ: OFFICIAL VEHICLES: DUAL PROPANE/GASOLINE FUEL SYSTEMS

1. NOAA NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE REP, MEXICO CITY, HAS BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION COMMERCIAL AVAILABILITY OF A DUAL PROPANE/GASOLINE FUEL SYSTEM FOR BOTH PASSENGER AND NON-PASSENGER CARRYING VEHICLES. ON THE SURFACE THE SYSTEM APPEARS TO PRESENT POSSIBLE ECONOMIES OF SOME SUBSTANCE FOR STATE AND OTHER AGENCIES OPERATING IN MEXICO, WHERE PRICE OF PREMIUM GAS HAS JUST BEEN HIKED 50 O/O. NINETY-TWO OCTANE UNLEADED GAS NOW COSTS \$.91 PER GALLON AT THE PUMP. PROPANE GAS, WHICH IS AVAILABLE IN MOST PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, CURRENTLY SELLS FOR \$.325 PER GALLON EQUIVALENT. THE MATHEMATICS ARE SIMPLE. EMBASSY'S STATE FLEET IN CAPITAL--16 UNITS-- CONSUMES ABOUT 1822 GALLONS GASOLINE EACH MONTH. SAVINGS RESULTING FROM USE OF PROPANE MIGHT RUN AS MUCH AS \$1200 PER MONTH FOR MEXICO CITY ALONE. WE HAVE TWENTY-FIVE MORE UNITS ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY AND SHIFT TO PROPANE COULD REDUCE FULL COSTS BY ABOUT \$2000 MORE PER MONTH. APART FROM STATE, USG RUNS OVER 150 VEHICLES IN MEXICO, WITH ADDITIONAL UNITS ON WAY IN TO SUPPORT JOINT MEXICAN-AMERICAN SCREWORM COMMISSION ACTIVITIES.

2. ONLY DETAILS ON PROPANE USE FOR VEHICLE OPERATIONS WE HAVE ON HAND IS SKETCHY. IT WAS GIVEN NOAA REP BY US FIRM CALLED TEXAS ENERGY COMPANY (TEXEN), WITH OFFICE AT 4141 PINNACLE DRIVE, LOS ARCOS BLDG, EXECUTIVE CENTER, EL PASO, TEXAS, ZIP 79902, AREA CODE 915-542-0658.

COMPANY CLAIMS THAT UNDERWRITERS LABORATORY RATES PROPANE
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FOUR TIMES SAFER THAN GASOLINE FUEL SYSTEM AND THAT MILEAGE

IS AS GOOD OR BETTER WITH PROPANE. THEY OFFER TO CONVERT
A STANDARD SIZE STATION WAGON TO DUAL SYSTEM USE, BY ADDING
PROPANE GAS TANK OF 33 GALON CAPACITY WHILE RETAINING
STANDARD VEHICLE GASOLINE TANK, FOR \$474.49 PER UNIT, LESS
10 O/O DISCOUNT. CONVERSION TIME IS SAID TO BE ABOUT FOUR
HOURS PER UNIT. TEXEN AVERS IT IS SIMPLE MATTER TO SWITCH
FROM ONE FUEL SOURCE TO ANOTHER. MOST INTERESTING, PEGDUAL SYSTEM, WE
WOULD LIKE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE
ON THIS SUBJECT GENERALLY AND, SPECIFICALLY, ON TEXEN CLAIMS.

WITH POTENTIAL SAVINGS OF \$14,000 PER YEAR FOR MEXICO CITY'S
16 VEHICLES ALONE, CONVERSION EVEN AT TEXEN'S PRICE WOULD SEEM
COST-EFFECTIVE. PURCHASE OF SYTEM AS OPTION, IF AVAILABLE,
FOR UNITS TO BE PROCURED THIS FY WOULD ALSO BEAR LOOKING INTO.
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